

# 'You're A Part Of The Solution, Or You're A Part Of The Problem'

## PIEDMONT PROFILE

BY CECIL BUTLER



### Who Cares?

Teenagers, with no wholesome place to go and nothing constructive to do, are roaming around Liberty Street and getting caught up in a troubled situation. The residents around 16th and 17th and Liberty Streets have been complaining for some time about crowds and heroin activity. Young toughs are going around the area pressing merchants for protection money. Ninety percent of the places with exciting, paid entertainment with atmosphere open to young people are places where drugs are readily available and alcoholic beverages are sold to teen-agers. It is too bad that the Golden Stag seems to be a victim of the area.

This restlessness of the young people has been building. A year ago I went to the aldermen with a proposal for using the Union Train Station, which had been vacant for four years, to provide a place of wholesome activity and career training for the young people, but the proposal was turned down without consideration. I also asked for funds for a drug abuse program. This request for funds also was turned down and the City spent its revenue sharing funds on tennis courts and other capital improvements. As we can all see, here is part of the practical reason that the needs of the poor should be taken care of before luxuries are planned. Also the Mayor's Task Force for Youth Opportunity which has been in operation a year and a half has had an employment program of fair quality but aldermen and/or their advisors, following true to form, cut the

funds for this. There has been opportunity after opportunity to avoid the kind of incident that occurred in the Liberty Street area last week. With no more opportunity than has been given to our young people, it is almost inevitable that civil disturbances such as these occurred.

As I drove around town Sunday, July 29, and saw quite a few young people endlessly roaming the streets with nothing much to do, both blacks and white, I could not envy the police. While some police may abuse authority, many don't and these policemen are put into a difficult situation — they reap the reaction to unsolved social ills but must put a lid on the frustration. It is not their duty to solve social problems but to hold things together and stop violence. They have been put in a bind and the endless circle of frustration for all continues.

Trying to break this endless cycle of frustration in a poor community should be the concern of all. These young people, as I have written before, need to find themselves as individuals, discover their talents, and feel a valuable and needed part of the community and the City. It would be to the advantage of all for them to become involved in innovative programs that are interesting to them and helpful to the community. Along with discovering their talents, jobs must be provided for these young people to have a practical outlet for their talents. Financial gain or apathy to their condition should not govern the actions of the citizens of the community nor of the City.



## THE ROY WILKINS COLUMN

### The Truth Is...

So, Negro leaders of organizations seeking a better lot for the black minority are not, after all the figures are in, pretenders and liars.

They are not crying "Wolf!" with a loaf of bread under each arm. They are not painting a bleak picture of the plight of Negroes just to arouse the sympathy of whites and shake a few more dollars out of white pockets and out of the bank accounts of corporations and foundations.

Whenever white Americans become weary, or exasperated or angry at the constant wails that arise wherever there are blacks (and the wails should never waver in their volume or intensity) they dig up some heavy thinker, preferably black, but most often white, who assures the white population that things are really not so bad for black people.

One is reminded of the testimony of a white deputy sheriff in a case in a Southern state in 1936. The deputy freely admitted that the black prisoners were tortured, but added, "not too much for a Negro, not as much as I would have done if it had been left to me."

However, the statistics in the Census Bureau shows that the gap between whites and blacks has widened, not narrowed, in the past five-year period. The median income for a black family of four

was \$6,864 as against a median income of \$11,549 for a white family of the same size. Even though a median income is only half above and half below and thus is not an average, the whole story is told in this \$4,685 difference.

This is about \$90 a week and could account for better rent or mortgage payments, health care, recreation, savings for college and for other family expenses. A disparity of this size disposes effectively of the argument made earlier this year that "most blacks are now in the middle class." The Census figures show that 52 per cent of black families earn under \$7,000 a year. This is not blue collar, much less middle class. The figures show that 33 per cent of the total black population was below the poverty level of \$4,275 for a family of four, whereas only 9 per cent of the white population was below that level.

Negroes, in these crucial categories and in others, remain far behind whites in the general picture. The figures indicate, just as the black leaders declared, that the unemployment rate between the races is more than twice as great for blacks and that the black teen-age rate of unemployment is 33.5 per cent. Census officials admit that these percentages are inaccurate. In some

Continued on Page 8

## THE POINTER

by Albert A. Campbell



### Who Will You Help?

In last week's column, I tried to show some of the importance of supporting advertising merchants who support this newspaper. In striving to present some of the reasons for the support, I also attempted to explain why it should be done as well as what it accomplishes.

Just to refresh your memory, I said, "If you show the merchant that you are in his store because of his ad, then he will continue advertising in this paper". I further stated, "By doing this, it also helps provide this paper for the public, most especially the Black community. When a merchant advertises in this paper, he is in fact supporting the existence of this paper. This is his way of saying, 'Yes, the paper is needed and I'll be happy to support it'. In return, he then expects your support and deserves it. After all, he could ignore your paper and only support the one that ignores you".

Now, with these thoughts in mind, I'd like to go even further. But first let me clarify any biased thoughts you might have in mind. Up to this point, I have not named any particular merchant or group in my argument. I have only generalized those who do or do not support your efforts. At this point I still do not feel the need to become more specific, but I do want to say that the supporters or non-supporters are not restricted to any one group. Some supporters are those who you would expect and others who you would not expect. On the other hand, there are those who you would certainly expect to advertise in this paper who refuse to do so and stated that they will not at any time in the future.

Now these merchants who refuse to advertise in this paper choose to disregard your clientele. In most cases, he is only concerned with excepting your money but not returning any to your community or causes. His intentions are never to spend money with you, but to receive money from you. He is neither concerned with your welfare nor your community efforts. As a matter of fact, in most cases, he is satisfied with the way conditions are and wishes no gains for you.

The same merchant is sometimes located deep into your community. And so often his business is located right on the edge of the Black community. Other times his is away and resembles the normal merchant, but he is different. In other words, he could care less about your conditions or causes. He has no intentions of helping to better your conditions or to support your efforts. And advertising in this paper is no exception.

These conclusions I have come to because of my exposure to so many of them. I have received many different answers why they cannot advertise in your paper, yet they are unable to explain why they will advertise in other papers. I have even had merchants to tell me that they never advertise in newspapers, but their ads appear in the daily paper...I wonder who paid for it. Obviously they think Black folk don't read other papers, so why then can't they advertise in papers that Blacks do read? Some reasoning I am sometimes given is completely foolish, yet, I am expected to believe it.

In conclusion, let me say that no ethnic group or race holds a monopoly on ignoring Black newspapers. There are Blacks as well as whites who refuse to advertise in Black media. They too are only concerned with taking from you, but never returning or sharing with you. The color of their skin is only a shield, but the shape of the eyes is \$\$. Who are these merchants who refuse to support you? Read THE TRIBUNAL AID, and if you don't see their ad at some time, but you do see their ad in other papers then you have located them yourself. Their absence is not because of not knowing, but it is of their own volition. They know, but they refuse.

THE TRIBUNAL AID  
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Albert A. Campbell, Managing Editor

## TO BE EQUAL

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.



### Aid To Starving Africans

Starvation has come to Africa, and unless a major international effort is successful, millions of people may die before this fall.

The affected area is at the lower end of the Sahara, taking in parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, and Chad. Unfamiliar place-names, most of them, and that may be part of the slowness of the world to respond.

The first warning signs went up more than three years ago, when drought hit the region. It has continued, and is likely to go on for some years yet. Last fall, word was spread by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization that crop failures in the area were due.

So the world knew about it, but little was done until tribesmen started streaming into towns and villages, pleading for food. Where were the members of the vast army of international experts then? Why didn't our State Department start things moving sooner? Was information about the impending disaster filed in neat folders while people died?

Now relief supplies are coming in, too little and too late. The UN and individual countries, including our own, are sending food, but it is one thing to get them to the ports and airfields of the region and another to get them into the hands of the people off in the hinterlands. Lack of roads and local transportation has been a stumbling block and the improvised nature of the operation results in waste and confusion.

While Africans are starving and a small amount of food is seeping in, American grain is filling the holds of ships bound for Russia, and this cargo bottleneck hampers relief efforts.

Right now, the biggest dangers facing some twenty million Africans in the drought region is not starvation — that's still a few months off. It is disease, for their weakened condition leaves them prey to otherwise controllable illnesses. There have been reports of hundreds of children dying in a measles epidemic, and the very old and very young are dying of

other sicknesses.

The whole fabric of many tribal societies has already died. Nomadic cattle-breeders have moved to the cities, abandoning a way of life that goes back over a thousand years. An estimated forty percent of their livestock have died. Farming peoples are eating their seeds, meaning that future crops will not be sown. And the drought-driven desert is pushing relentlessly southward, threatening future progress in the region and upsetting the delicate balance of life and ecology in the northwest Africa.

The world has become hardened to pictures of hungry people, even of children with distended stomachs and matchstick limbs. But this current catastrophe in Africa can't depend solely on the goodwill of individuals moved by tragic photos. It requires large-scale international and governmental action.

The United States should take the lead by establishing an African relief "czar" empowered to cut the red tape and deliver the goods. The UN ought to act boldly, for since most people have doubts about its effectiveness as a peacekeeper, its total credibility now lies on its ability to stave off disasters such as that which threatens six African nations.

Beyond the immediate emergency relief that is required, American and international policy ought to be retooled to provide massive aid to rebuild the stricken areas and to launch plants to help develop the region's economy. The inadequate ports and transportation network now proving to be a major stumbling block to relief efforts ought to have been improved long ago. Colonialism's heritage, which now includes starvation, can be erased by an international Marshall Plan that funnels aid to impoverished nations of the Third World. Instead of competing in development of destructive weapons, the super powers should now start competing in humanitarian works.

### 'WHITE HOUSE HORRORS' HE ADVOCATED AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

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JOHN MITCHELL

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